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THE
MONTHLY



GULL
BULLETIN

Volume 48

Berkeley, Calif.

June 1966

Number 6

ANNUAL DINNER — JUNE 9

Robert D. Barbee, Park Ranger at Point Reyes National Seashore, will present an illustrated talk at the Golden Gate Audubon Society's Annual Dinner **Thursday, June 9**, at the College Women's Club, Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley. A social half-hour in the lounge will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Beth Snyder is Dinner Chairman.

The deadline for dinner reservations is **Monday, June 6**. The reservation form is reprinted at the end of this issue of the *Gull*. The dinner price is \$3.50, including tax, and Miss Marjorie M. Atkinson, 4 Willow Lane, Kensington, is in charge of reservations.

New members are urged to attend this traditional dinner meeting and become acquainted with other members. The program will also include the election of officers for the coming year.

FIELD TRIPS, JUNE 4 — JULY 2

Saturday & Sunday, June 4-5, Yosemite National Park. For details see your May *Gull*.

Saturday, June 18, Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley. This trip was enjoyed by many beginners last June. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the entrance to the UC Botanical Gardens. The habitat — some man-made and some natural — attracts a large variety of birds. Flowers will also be abundant. Leaders: Miss Patricia Tiggard, 655-8567 and Mr. L. R. Leinbach, 526-7649.

Note: The annual bank swallow trip will not be scheduled this year. If you wish to see nesting bank swallows, walk along the beach near San Francisco's Fleishhacker Zoo any time in June. Early June is preferable.

Saturday, July 2, South Peninsula Coast. Murrelets, murres, gullinots, purple martins, grasshopper sparrows, red-legged partridges (introduced), and black swifts could be seen by covering a variety of habitats. Meet at the Municipal Pier parking lot of Princeton on Half Moon Bay at **9 a.m.** Leader, Ted Chandik, 851-0354 (Woodside).

Bring lunch, binoculars, field guides, and interested friends on all field trips.

The next boat trip off the Montcrey coast is scheduled for **Saturday, August 27**. Details will appear in the July *Gull*. — MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips* Chairman.

ALBATROSS EXPEDITION — JUNE 13

Twelve miles offshore will be the destination of the albatross trip to be conducted by Leavitt McQuesten on **Monday, June 13**. The Stagnaro sport fishing boat will leave the Santa Cruz municipal wharf, Santa Cruz, at **7:30 a.m.** and return about noon the same day. Tickets are \$1.50 and reservations must be made in advance. For tickets or more information write Viola Anderson, 227 Linden St., Santa Cruz, Calif.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOBBY SHOW

Paul F. Covell and Valerie Lounkin need volunteers to help set up the Golden Gate Audubon booth and to staff it at the Oakland Hobby Show, **June 17 to 19**, in the Oakland Exposition Building. The Oakland Recreation Department is sponsoring the show to stimulate and encourage hobbies of all kinds. All commercialism is prohibited during the show. The Directors of Golden Gate Audubon Society joined the new Oakland Hobby Council in order to become participants in this show in the hope of attracting new members.

If you can help in some way, please communicate with the Co-Chairmen: Paul Covell (536-4120 or 273-3739, business phone) or with Miss Lounkin or Mrs. Frances Capelle (261-2842). The Oakland Exposition Building is located at 10th and Fallon, behind the Municipal Auditorium south of Lake Merritt. The Hobby Show will be open from 1 to 9 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 19. Admission will be 25¢.

NEST OBSERVATIONS WANTED BY CORNELL

Members of Golden Gate Audubon Society have been asked to participate in the North American Nest Record Card Program sponsored by Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology. Anyone who finds an active nest of any species can contribute information to this project. One of the long-range purposes is to provide information which reflects the effects of man on his environment, pesticides use, habitat changes, etc. Mrs. Marianne Shepard will be the coordinator for the data submitted by Golden Gate members. Please write to Mrs. Shepard, Box 141, Glen Ellen, Calif. for cards on which to note your observations of active nests. Each nest, whether successful or not, should be recorded on a separate card. However, in checking on the nests, *be careful not to disturb the birds and thus discourage nesting success.*

**AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON**

Under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

The chicken barbecue which Marin Audubon holds annually for the benefit of the all-important Maintenance Fund of Audubon Canyon Ranch

will take place on **Sunday, June 5**, starting at noon at the ranch. The weather should be perfect on this date and the rookery at the peak of its activity with eggs and young of both species in the nests. Transportation to the Overlook will be available for those unable to make the climb. The Bert Harwell Nature Trail will have been completed. The big loop up the recently acquired Pike County Trail, along the Bolinas-Fairfax Road to the top of Bourne Trail, and back down to the ranch, will be open to hikers. Members are urged to bring their families and friends to this annual event. Adult tickets (\$3.00 each) and tickets for children under 13 (\$1.50) may be ordered from Marin Audubon Society, P.O. Box 441, Tiburon, Calif. 94920.

The nesting activity at Canyon Ranch will be winding up soon. There are still young of all stages, and from the Herbert Scott Henderson Overlook you can see clearly into the nests. Even though they must be pretty frizzled inside by this time, the parents still have their elegant nuptial plumes and still politely offer each other the twig, their recognition symbol. The ranch will be open weekends until July 4.

"Mexico's California," Laurel Reynolds' and Mindy Willis' beautiful film shown at Berkeley Little Theatre on April 11, netted \$218.18 for Audubon Canyon Ranch maintenance funds.

If you can volunteer as host or hostess at Canyon Ranch during June, please notify Rachel Weckerle, 1814 Marin Ave., Berkeley (526-0879). Groups planning to visit the ranch should make reservations with Mrs. Stanley Ellis, 2483 Mar East, Tiburon (435-1180). Men interested in joining a ranch work-party, please write Mr. Dudley S. Hubbard of Marin Audubon Society, 83 Magee Ave., Mill Valley.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Shall we build those monster dams on the Upper Colorado — mainly to supply power when other sources might be cheaper and less destructive? This is a big issue for the Southwest and for all the United States, and it is being argued by people far better informed than your Conservation Chairman. But we have just seen and heard things on a Lower Colorado inspection tour which leave us incredulous, seething with righteous wrath. We read in Sierra Club, National Wildlife, Audubon and other conservation sources how they wanted to "channelize" the Lower Colorado, so we went to see for ourselves (thanks to the assistance of an Arizona friend who arranged tours with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and other agencies).

Magnificent Toppock Gorge below Needles was a thrilling personal discovery, in spite of all we had heard of its natural features. Now we have seen the indescribable beauty of its brownish cliffs, the little inlets filled with vegetation — and waterfowl in fall and winter — the quiet family fishing parties who pitch their tents on narrow beaches, the ancient Indian writings on flower-studded rocks. It is all a part of the Havasu Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

But this the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation would convert to what we'd term a glorified culvert in order to rush through the water and save some silting. Waterfowl habitat and fish-spawning would be destroyed. Millions of cubic yards of sediment removed would be dumped into another water and marsh area, thereby ruining it, too.

Who defends and insists on this expensive destruction of Toppock Gorge, using your dollars and the dollars of millions of United States outdoor users? Apparently only the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and some spokesmen for the Central Arizona Water Plan! And this in defiance of most other federal and California and Arizona State agencies concerned with preservation and proper use of wildlife and natural resources! Truly we felt that here was another case where "Big Brother" (Uncle Sam) with too much money to spend, was waving a club at those who would save some of the Lower Colorado! And the defenders need a hand!

Harold Gilliam's "This Land" page in the San Francisco Sunday *Chronicle* for May 1st gives an excellent "Checklist on Conservation," a list of Statewide legislative conservation issues on which he suggests conservationists query their candidates for the June 7th election. We hope other local papers will follow suit and we're sure some conservation publications will do so. In fact, if you'll look hard at the slates you might even find some candidates with pretty good conservation records!

And your Conservation Chairman is also indebted to the various conservation issue reports of the *Christian Science Monitor*, Western Edition, and to devoted Golden Gate Audubon old-timer who clips and mails these items, Mrs. Laura Stephens of San Francisco. Some of these *Monitor* columns give us a neutral or impartial presentation of both sides of a controversy, as in the case of the current agonizing Redwood National Park issue, which helps us to form a better considered judgment.

California State conservation and outdoor-use issues and policies which may be decided by our legislators in the very near future include: A proposed one-cent per gallon increase in the gas tax for park acquisition and scenic easements; requirements that tract developers provide either lands or monies for local parks; re-organization of the State Highway Commission and their staff with wider professional representation; new departments of State Planning and Conservation (the latter within the State Department of Education); new tax relief for farmers and other open-land holders; power of eminent domain to acquire scenic easements and new curbs on open land speculation. We urge you to secure more complete descriptions of these proposals, **study them and watch their progress at Sacramento.** — PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

SAVE BUENA VISTA LAGOON

The Buena Vista Audubon Society and the Los Angeles Chapter of Nature Conservancy have written to us for help in the effort to save Buena Vista Lagoon, which is part of the Pacific Flyway and one of the last bodies of fresh water left in Southern California. The 200 acres of water in this

Lagoon (near Oceanside) offer refuge to thousands of migratory waterfowl each year as well as 200 species of wildlife throughout the year. Because part of the Lagoon is privately owned and the asking price is \$5,000 per acre, only the State can afford to acquire it plus adjoining lands suitable for park development. The water will remain a sanctuary for wildlife. Los Angeles and Buena Vista Audubon Societies have requested help in order to present to the Division of Beaches and Parks convincing evidence the conservation-minded people of California and other states know this lagoon to be an indispensable part of the Pacific Flyway. Under the leadership of Dr. Roy Palmateer, the people of the cities of Carlsbad and Oceanside are trying to obtain 5,000 post-cards from all interested people, urging the state to acquire the lagoon and the adjacent park areas. Cards should be addressed to Dr. Roy Palmateer, 516 Fourth St., Oceanside, Calif. 92054.

APRIL FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Alameda — On April 9 about 35 birders observed 53 species in Alameda. The group was rewarded by shorebirds in resplendent spring plumage, in particular the black-bellied plover, avocet, dunlin and dowitcher, and also Bonaparte's gull. At the old airport we were greatly diverted to find 4 burrowing owls standing at attention while numerous rabbits frolicked in the grass and cock pheasants strolled. On the South Shore Drive, almost at the sidewalk edge, we spotted two baby horned larks wearing their natal down, and we watched while one parent led a youngster a merry chase for the reward of frequent feedings. Rain cut our trip rather short. — ALICE D. RADCLIFFE, *Leader*.

Bear Valley in Point Reyes National Seashore — About 20 people came on the Bear Valley field trip on April 23. We had an interesting introductory talk by Robert Barbee of the Park Service. The trip itself, covering 10 miles, was more of a hike than a bird or botany walk, and we were strung out along the trail according to individual pace and inclination. Statistics show: (1) perfect weather — probably the best day of the whole year; (2) wildflowers galore; (3) this is a good place to go if you like to be sung to almost all the way by winter wrens — interspersed by a variety of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, etc.; (4) if you are lucky and alert, you may see the white deer of India, as some of our party did. Apparently some of the imported deer on the ranch near Tomales State Park have escaped. — AILEEN PIERSON, *Leader and Historian*.

Farallon Islands — Sunny warm weather and a relatively calm sea were enjoyed by some 38 members and guests of the Golden Gate Audubon Society on their annual pelagic birding trip to the Farallon Islands on Saturday, April 23. Perhaps the most unusual birds sighted were several unidentified hummingbirds flying over the ocean a few miles out, and a barn swallow about 20 miles from land. The biggest attraction, however, to most birders, especially the two from Europe, were the black-footed albatrosses. At least seven of these pelagic giants were found — five flying or sitting around the boat at one time, close enough to be photographed by many people. A few small flocks of sooty shearwaters were encountered south of the

islands, with two pink-footed among them. One late fulmar was also present. Breeding plumaged Arctic loons, usually in groups of eight, flew in front of the boat all morning heading north. Upon approaching the large south-east island, the boat was greeted by a group of seven tufted puffins resting on the water. From the rocks above came flying hundreds of white-bellied common murrelets like large snow flakes blowing out to sea. Pigeon guillemots in their black summer dress constantly whistled by the boat. Brandt's and pelagic cormorants also flew in and out of the rocks in small numbers. Two black oystercatchers flew out, circled the boat and went to another part of the island, where they were later seen in company with a black turnstone.

On the way back a small flock of black brant, a black-legged kittiwake, a Cassin's auklet, and a single northern phalarope were spotted. The many small flocks of Bonaparte's gulls were carefully checked by Dr. Howard Cogswell and others, but no Sabine's gulls could be found. — RICH STALLCUP and TED CHANDIK, *Co-Leaders*.

POINT REYES WILDFLOWER TRIP — April 14th was such a fine day that lunch could be greatly enjoyed on Point Reyes Beach. For miles beyond Olema Marsh the shady roadside was brightened by the whitish pyramidal flower clusters of red elderberry. At the Lighthouse, in a mass of color, other whitish flowers were conspicuous: patches of native field chickweed (*Cerastium*), and many thickly-clustered heads of large white wallflowers (*Concinnum*) in fields sloping to the ocean. The road to Drake's Bay being closed, it was fortunate that Mrs. Beth Snyder could lead us on the McClure's Beach Road to a fresh-water marsh. Here in the pond were masses of leaves of two kinds of parsley, the more attractive being the shining, roundish leaves of *Hydrocotyle*. Across the road in the marsh was a community of Siberian *Montia*, exquisitely-shaped, glossy succulents, their delicate notched petals penciled with pink; and one plant of golden-eyed grass (*Iris* family), a rarity. To the flower handbooks mentioned in the trip notice should be added a 1965 publication: Helen K. Sharsmith's *Spring Wildflowers of the San Francisco Bay Region*, covering nearly 300 representative flowers, of which 58 are shown in color and 134 by plant habit sketches. — MARSHALL JENCKS, *Leader*.

APRIL OBSERVATIONS

4-18 — From Werner Schumann: "In the morning of April 18th I took a short bird excursion to Lake Merced in San Francisco with my wife. Right at the beginning we were lucky enough to observe a *palm warbler* in the willow thickets. (There were also four pairs of yellowthroats in the area, one of them feeding. The nest was so well hidden that we were only able to find it on a second trip on April 20th. It was located in a low blackberry thicket and contained 4 young birds, which were almost ready to leave the nest.")

4-19 — Sunol Valley Regional Park was a good birding area in late April. In this park on April 19 Judy Olson spotted a male *Lawrence's goldfinch* near Alameda Creek at noon. Five minutes later a Nashville warbler appeared in nearby oaks, foraging and singing. Rufous-crowned sparrows and lazuli buntings were also in view and singing along the Alameda Creek trail and up Welch Creek Road. Two wood ducks were observed in Sunol Park several times in April.

4-26 — On the Mines Road (Livermore hill area) about four miles southeast of the McCoy Ranch, Gertrude Bialos found a male *Lawrence's goldfinch*. On the same date phainopepla parents were feeding nestlings in an oak tree near the Mines Road.

4-27 — From Francis J. Walcott: "Night of April 27, about 9:30 p.m., one (or possibly 2) *poor-wills* about half-way up Throckmorton Ridge, Mt. Tamalpais, clearly heard."

4-27 — In the morning of April 27 Grace Lambert saw a male *calliope hummingbird* at Woodland Camp in the Tilden Regional Park Nature Area, Berkeley.

4-28 — A male *black-chinned hummingbird* was observed in the Laurel Canyon area of Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley (northwest of his normal range) about noon on April 28 by Vi Homem. Perched in full sunlight at a distance of ten feet, he flashed a horizontal violet band at the bottom of his black chin, and he had a clear white collar below the iridescent violet color. He was with many other hummingbirds in an

extensive growth of blossoming twinberry. The hummer group included calliope, rufous, Allen's, and Anna's. (In 1964 Harry Adamson of Lafayette found a black-chinned hummingbird in his yard, according to the May 1964 bulletin of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.) Also on April 28, migrating western tanagers were already in the Tilden Park Nature Area, and a MacGillivray's warbler was singing on a dead willow branch in Laurel Canyon.

FILMS — Next season's Audubon Wildlife Film series will start in October, according to Frances Ellen Fallgatter, Film Chairman. Reserve tickets now by sending a check (payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society) to "Audubon Wildlife Films", P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, Calif., 94701. Audubon members may obtain season tickets for the series of five films for \$5.00. The season ticket price for non-members will be \$6.00, and for students under 18 it will be \$3.00. All tickets will be mailed in September.

CYGNET SUBSCRIPTIONS — To subscribe to *The Cygnet*, the Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication for children, please send \$1.00 to Mrs. M. S. Nickelsburg, *Cygnet* Editor, 2585 Union St., San Francisco, Calif., 94123. Mrs. Nickelsburg has been receiving many interesting letters from her young readers.

NOTE: — For *The Gull* to continue to qualify for the bulk mail rate, it will be necessary for every address to contain the zip code by the end of this year. If we do not have your zip number, please send it to the Membership Secretary.

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

In Memory of:

Mrs. Allie Mae DeSaxe	Dr. Lynn Foree
Julia Shay Chase	Alice Radcliffe
Mrs. Harry Evans	Elsa Johnson
Mr. Hubbard Keenan	Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Granicher
Margaret Milwain	Margarette Richardson
George V. Walker	Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boles
Elizabeth Ann Jones	Ellyn Beaty
Newton Booth Coghill	Francis Kidney, Jean R. Bounsy,
	W. T. Fitzgerald, L. Martin Blaha
Marion Morrill	Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stearns
Christine Gordon	Marge Akeret
Ernie Katzinger	Marge Akeret and Nelda Neweomer

The Concord Women's Garden Club made a gift in honor of Mrs. Beitzel.

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*
854 Longridge Rd., Oakland, Calif. 94610

Deadline for the July *Gull* will be June 8.

RESERVATION FORM FOR JUNE 9 DINNER

MISS MARJORIE M. ATKINSON
4 WILLOW LANE
BERKELEY, CALIF. 94707

Enclosed is my check for \$..... for reservations for the Golden Gate Audubon Society's Annual Dinner on **Thursday, June 9**, at the College Women's Club, Berkeley.

Name..... Address.....

(Dinner is \$3.50. Please make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society.)



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1966

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	A. Warren Larson.....	44 Rincon Road, Berkeley 7	525-9149
Vice President.....	Miss Bertha Underhill.....	35 Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley	848-0131
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Editor	Mrs. Violet Homem.....	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland 11	655-8886
Field Trips Chairman.....	Mrs. Valeria DaCosta.....	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco	9 931-5257
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Canyon Ranch Film Distribution Chairman.....	Mrs. Bonnie Smith.....	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	OV 1-7635
Audubon Canyon Ranch Fund Raising.....	Mrs. Myra Browne.....	482 Broadmoor, San Leandro	568-1921

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$8.50 per year, Includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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